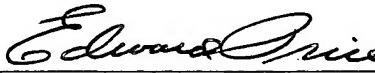


PCT/US02/35665

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified U.S. national phase application of International Application No. PCT/US02/35665, filed November 7, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.